

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region

Over 50 Years Serving Coastal Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013
Phone (213) 576-6600 FAX (213) 576-6640 - Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4>

2003 WATER QUALITY AWARD RECIPIENTS NAMED

Los Angeles City Council and Senator Sheila Kuehl Among Those Honored for Leadership and Innovation by Regional Water Board

Los Angeles—The 2003 Water Quality Award recipients were announced today by Susan Cloke, Chair of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. A ceremony honoring the Water Quality Award recipients will be held Thursday, October 23rd in Glendale, California. The winners were selected based on significant contributions to water quality protection and enhancement in Los Angeles or Ventura Counties during 2002-2003. State Resources Secretary Mary Nichols will be the keynote speaker at the ceremony.

“The awards recognize the extraordinary steps taken by individuals and organizations to protect and enhance the health of the State’s waters,” noted Cloke. “The award recipients are distinguished by a commitment to clean water, by leadership, and innovative problem-solving that has resulted in greater levels of protection and awareness.”

The 2003 Water Quality Award recipients are:

- **Permittee Commendation:** The City of Glendale for the implementation of a comprehensive program to reduce the amount of pollution entering the regional stormdrain system;
- **Water Quality Educator:** The City of LA’s “Grease Avenger” for his educational programs to raise student awareness of water quality issues;
- **Water Quality: Architecture and Landscape Design:** Campbell and Campbell for its integration of water quality and water conservation in the design of the Audubon Center in Los Angeles;
- **Waterbody Conservation:** The Watershed Cleanup Project for initiating a multi-agency collaboration that has resulted in the significant improvement of local water quality in Long Beach;

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PAGE TWO

WATER QUALITY AWARDS

- **Waterbody Restoration:** Steering Committee for the Santa Clara River Nitrogen TMDL for using an inclusive approach to developing a practicable and widely supported regulation that will protect water quality along the 100-mile length of the Santa Clara River;
- **Water Quality Stewardship:** Angie Bera, Program Director for the Santa Monica BayKeeper, for developing a volunteer monitoring program that has provided critical waterquality data and assisted state and local agencies with restoring the quality of our coastal waters;
- **Public Education in Water Quality:** The Aquarium of the Pacific for providing fun, hands-on and often first-time introductions to the Pacific Ocean and the marine life it supports;
- **Water Quality Research:** The Algalita Marine Research Foundation for its pioneering research on the impact of plastics on marine habitat in the Pacific Ocean;
- **Water Quality Advocacy:** Natural Resources Defense Council for protecting, promoting and furthering the preservation and enhancement of water resources through community, administrative, legal and legislative activism;
- **Innovation in Water Quality Protection:** Judith Wilson, Director of the Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation, for pioneering the use of a new technology to transform wastewater sludges into useful and environmentally-friendly biosolids;
- **Water Quality Leadership:** Los Angeles City Council for its leadership on water quality protections and for working to restore the Los Angeles River; and
- **Water Quality Excellence Award:** State Senator Sheila Kuehl for her long-standing leadership and legislation protecting human health and the environment.

In June 2003, the Water Board issued a call for award nominations. Nominations were submitted by representatives from government, the business community, environmental organizations and local communities. "The quality of nominees was exceptional," noted Cloke. "Selecting just one recipient for each award was extremely difficult and almost impossible. Everyone was so very exceptional and deserving of recognition."

"While much work remains to be done, great progress has been made in restoring and protecting the State's precious water resources," said Cloke. "What we have

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PAGE THREE

WATER QUALITY AWARDS

accomplished is due to the dedication and cooperation of many people, only some of whom we are able to recognize through our awards. Protecting water quality depends upon everyone becoming involved and working together.”

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency and assists with the implementation of the U.S. Clean Water Act and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Its mission is to preserve and enhance water quality in the Los Angeles Region for the benefit of present and future generations. The Board is comprised of nine members who are aided by an executive officer and staff of state employees. Board members are appointed by the Governor, serve 4-year terms and are non-salaried. The Water Quality Awards were created in 2000 and are given annually by the Regional Board. Recipients are given a plaque memorializing their selection but no monetary prize or other financial compensation.

Additional information about the Water Quality Awards and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board can be found on the web at:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/~rwqcb4/html/wq_awards.html

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